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Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

1. At its 19th meeting, on 12 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme. On the whole, Member States expressed positive views of the programme, which reflected a high priority in the implementation of the programme's mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States also expressed their support for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system.

4. Concerns were raised that there should be more consistency throughout the text in terms of key phrases and language. It was mentioned that there were multiple variations in the text regarding the terms "gender equality" and "women's

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empowerment". Delegations stressed that the phrase "gender equality and the empowerment of women" should be used consistently throughout the text.

5. The view was expressed that UN-Women should undertake its activities in coordination with the countries involved and that any assistance and support would be provided to Member States at their request only.

6. Member States requested more information on the input of UN-Women to strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the post-2015 development agenda. The comment was made that UN-Women, in the context of that agenda, was planning too far ahead without approval of new mandates by the General Assembly. Queries were also raised as to the participation of civil society organizations and stakeholders in that agenda.

7. Questions were raised concerning the structuring of the office of UN-Women and how it had evolved since its establishment.

8. It was recalled that the biennial programme plan should reference resolutions and decisions when including key phrases and terminology.

9. It was emphasized that UN-Women should take a balanced approach to the three pillars of the United Nations and give equal importance to peace and security, development and human rights in implementing its mandate of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Concerns were raised that UN-Women gave less importance to the development pillar in the context of gender equality and the empowerment of women and more importance to the other two pillars.

10. Questions were raised as to whether UN-Women was experiencing any challenges with the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women that had been approved by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

11. Delegations noted that indicators of achievement (a) (ii), (b) and (d) under subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships, and indicator of achievement (b) under subprogramme 2, Policy and programme activities, should not refer to activities but rather focus on outcomes. The indicators should specify how the programme would measure and achieve the expected accomplishment.

12. Views were expressed that the indicators of achievement should focus more on the level of support provided or actions undertaken by UN-Women than on activities, for example:

(a) Under subprogramme 1, indicator of achievement (a) should specify the actions that UN-Women will carry out instead of the activities and expected accomplishment (b) should measure the number of accredited non-governmental organizations that participate in intergovernmental bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women;

(b) Under subprogramme 2, expected accomplishment (b) should measure the number of women reached.

13. It was indicated that revisions to the indicators of achievement would be introduced during the informal meetings.

14. Comments were made that UN-Women support to intergovernmental bodies, as noted in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under subprogramme 1, was not suitable to measure the performance of UN-Women. Questions were raised as to how the related activities of UN-Women would enhance intergovernmental bodies' capacity to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives into their spheres of activity. Furthermore, a query was made as to whether UN-Women had the capacity to carry out those activities.

15. Regarding expected accomplishment (d) under subprogramme 1, a clarification was sought regarding the type of partnerships that was meant as well as what stakeholders were included in the related indicator of achievement (i).

16. A request was made for the status of UN-Women mobilization of voluntary contributions, as noted in indicator of achievement (d) (ii) under subprogramme 1, and for further detail on the activities that UN-Women was undertaking to mobilize those contributions. A question was also asked about what activities were funded by voluntary contributions.

17. While emphasizing the important role and participation of civil society, views were expressed that this could be undertaken only within the clear guidelines established by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.1

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"14.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of UN-Women, is to achieve the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment and advancement of women and the realization of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The direction of the programme is provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as a composite entity. The proposed strategic framework for 2016-2017 is aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Women for 2014 to 2017 (UNW/2013/6), endorsed by the UN-Women Executive Board in September 2013."

Paragraph 14.3

Delete the first sentence.

Paragraph 14.4

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"14.4 During the 2016-2017 period, the programme is expected to continue to concentrate its efforts on the following six strategic plan goals: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives, including in political and economic areas; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, particularly women living in poverty; (c) preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels; and (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Paragraph 14.5

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"14.5 As it delivers support in those areas, the programme will create strategic partnerships that will lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. It will carry out its work in coordination with other United Nations entities in order to avoid duplication of work. It will provide overall leadership, strengthen such mechanisms and continue to promote and enhance accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system, including by assisting United Nations entities with the implementation of the system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Paragraph 14.6

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"14.6 The programme of work of UN-Women is driven, among other things, by the principle of universality. The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UN-Women and is addressed across all its priority areas of work."

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

"(a) Enhanced support from UN-Women for the activities of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment

of women, including the integration of gender perspectives into their spheres of activity".

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), add the phrase ", in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996".

Indicators of achievement

Add an indicator (a) (iii), as follows:

"(iii) Increased number of intergovernmental bodies integrating gender perspectives into their spheres of activity, including as a result of the efforts of UN-Women."

Strategy

Paragraph 14.8 (a)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(a) Promoting actions and providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review outcomes, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;"

Paragraph 14.8 (b)

Add the phrase "and effective" after "substantive".

Paragraph 14.8 (c)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the phrase ", as appropriate".

Paragraph 14.8 (d)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through educational activities, information dissemination and outreach, using different channels, such as websites, social media and print products;"

Paragraph 14.8 (e)

Insert the words "and women's issues" after the word "equality".

Paragraph 14.8 (f)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(f) Leading and supporting system-wide and inter-agency collaboration on gender equality and the empowerment of women

through the promotion of joint action, collaboration in United Nations country teams and their gender theme groups, and facilitation of the establishment and use of accountability frameworks of the United Nations system on gender equality and the empowerment of women;"

Paragraph 14.8 (g)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(g) Supporting cooperation among countries, as well as the mechanisms established for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, at the regional and subregional levels;"

Paragraph 14.8 (i)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(i) Building and strengthening strategic partnerships focused on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women to achieve a robust resource base."

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with the following:

"To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality and their empowerment in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in this regard"

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), replace the phrase "at the national level" with the phrase "at the country level".

Strategy

Paragraph 14.9 (a)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the phrase "and their impact on the situation of women".

Paragraph 14.9 (c)

Insert "their" before "commitments".

Paragraph 14.9 (d)

Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(d) Leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system, including to the United Nations country and regional teams and their gender theme groups, in their work on gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Legislative mandates

Add the agreed conclusions of the Commission of the Status of Women, 2014.